

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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September 27, 2006

The Honorable Tom Coburn  
United States Senate  
Subcommittee on Financial Management,  
Government Information and International Security  
439 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

In response to your recent letter, please see the attached summary of recent, direct federal appropriations to the University of Minnesota.

Each appropriation has a brief description of how the funds were used and what the benefit is to the public.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Bruiniks  
President

## Uniform Farm Management Program

The purpose of this project is to build collaboration between university and community college farm management education programs across the US. Currently educational institutions in ten states participate in this project and provide direct educational benefits to several thousand farmers. Results include improved tools to help farmers analyze farm profitability and creation of the nation's largest online farm financial database ([www.fimbin.umn.edu](http://www.fimbin.umn.edu)). This project has been funded at the followed levels:

FY2003	\$278,616
FY2004	\$248,873
FY2005	\$262,055
FY2006	\$275,418

## Intelligent Transportation Systems Institute

The Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Institute is a University Transportation Center (UTC) funded through the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), the federal transportation bill passed in 1998. This funding continues the Institute's efforts initiated under TEA-21's predecessor, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA). Reauthorization of TEA-21 is scheduled for 2003.

The Institute plans and conducts activities that further the mission of the UTC program of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT). That mission is to advance U.S. technology and expertise in the many disciplines that make up transportation through education, research, and technology transfer activities at university-based centers of excellence.

The Institute's activities are guided by its theme of enhancing the safety and mobility of road- and transit-based transportation through a focus on human-centered technology. To that end, the Institute brings together technologists and those who study human behavior to ensure that Institute-developed technologies become tools that optimize human capabilities.

### FUNDING:

The *cumulative* amount of federal funds since 2000 is \$14,134,000.

### OUTCOMES:

A comprehensive description of the research, education, publications, and outreach activities of the ITS Institute can be found at <http://www.its.umn.edu/about/index.html>.

### STORIES:

Links to several stories about accomplishments of the ITS Institute are shown below:

ITS news headlines by year:

<http://www.its.umn.edu/news/2006/index.html>

Outside media stories listed on the news section of our Web site:

Interview with U professor Rajesh Rajamani on the new federal mandate for electronic stability control for all passenger vehicles (link to:

<http://www.kare11.com/video/player.aspx?aid=33800&bw=>)

KARE-11 News, Sept. 14, 2006

Minnesota Medicine article on reducing fatal crashes features ITS Institute experts, technology <http://www.its.umn.edu/news/2006/publicenemy.html>

Inside ITS article highlights Minnesota's Toward Zero Deaths program

<http://www.its.umn.edu/news/2005/ITSHighlightsTZD.html>

'U' research on driving hits new gear (Star Tribune, September 10, 2005)

<http://www.its.umn.edu/news/2005/strib-teenagers.html>

Driver distraction and cell phone research featured in news media (3 media stories)

<http://www.its.umn.edu/news/2005/distraction-media.html>

History Channel features Intelligent Vehicle Initiative

<http://www.its.umn.edu/news/2003/historychannel.html>

The TechnoBus, SAFELOW, and a State Patrol squad car were featured in the first episode of the History Channel's "Tactical to Practical" series

### **Hypersonics Research Center**

These funds have been used to support fundamental research in hypersonic aerodynamics to support the Nation's programs in this area. These include the Air Force / DARPA FALCON program, the Air Force X-51A Scramjet Engine Demonstrator program, the NASA CEV/Orion capsule, the DARPA HyCAUSE and ASET programs, the Air Force Research Laboratory FRESH-FX program, and many others. We have transitioned large-scale simulation codes to the Air Force Research Laboratory to support their development and analysis needs. We have developed a new set of tools for predicting transition to turbulence at hypersonic flight conditions; this code is now being used at national labs (Air Force Research Labs, Sandia National Labs, NASA Ames Research Center, Arnold Engineering and Development Center), aerospace companies (Boeing, Northrop-Grumman, Raytheon), and universities. The funds have been used to support graduate students and faculty, as well as experiments that are specifically designed to provide critical data for the validation of our computational flow simulations.

FY2004        \$2 million

FY2005        \$2 million

FY2006        \$2 million

## **Translational Research Facility**

Translational research takes basic science, or lab science, and develops them into innovative approaches to treatment and therapy options that help patients fight disease and improve health.

The Translational Research Facility is one of the finest examples of a public-private partnership advancing the scientific potential of our top faculty. The University was able to secure private funding for the facility. We are grateful for the \$10 million gift from Dr. Bill Maguire and his wife Nadine, which we supplemented by adding royalty dollars through the College of Pharmacy. The state legislature recognized the importance of the facility and the significant commitments already put in motion and agreed to help finance the project with over \$24 million in bonds.

Federal dollars were used to an added margin of excellence for the University's translational research capacity and truly put Minnesota at the forefront of biomedical research.

FY2004        \$700,000

## **Bell Museum of Natural History**

The James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History was established by state legislative mandate in 1872 to collect, preserve, skillfully prepare, display, and interpret our state's diverse animal and plant life for scholarly research and teaching and for public appreciation, enrichment, and enjoyment. Its governance belongs, by state legislative designation, to the University of Minnesota.

Funds appropriated through the Institute of Museum and Library Services are being utilized for architectural planning for the new facility and site for the Bell Museum of Natural History; exhibit and program development; exhibit design; and project evaluation. Specifically accomplished through this appropriation:

- The University of Minnesota and the Bell Museum were able to enter into the State of Minnesota's architect selection process and, in early 2005, received final recommendations from the Minnesota State Designer Selection Board. The University of Minnesota, on behalf of the Bell Museum, engaged the architects for the schematic design process.
- The museum was able to hire an exhibit developer to draft the major exhibit and program components for the new facility.
- The museum conducted a broad audience survey of current and potential museum visitors to develop an audience plan designed to serve the state of Minnesota through exhibits and programs.
- The museum engaged a team of national consultants to create a plan to move its wildlife habitat dioramas.

- Architectural program plan and facility diagrams by Thorbeck Architects in association with ESG Architects and Kestrel Design Group
- Development of the preliminary concept plan for exhibits and programs, outlining interpretive themes and describing specific exhibit and program experiences for indoor and outdoor spaces
- Exhibit schematic design report by Andrew Merriell and Associates
- *Public Interest in a Nature (Natural History) Museum Experience: A Front-End Study for the new Bell Museum*, by People, Places & Design Research

FY2004	\$99,410
FY2005	\$411,680